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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	VCE-00	MOFM-05	MOF-01	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	CRYE-00	R-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
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P 121526Z SEP 02  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6711

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 COPENHAGEN 003062

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/PPD - RPOST  
DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/ERA - KALLEGRONE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KPAO, PREL, OPRC, IZ, DA  
SUBJECT: DRAWING A ROADMAP FOR IRAQ PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

REF: SECSTATE 169975

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1. (U) SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, COPENHAGEN SUBMITS ITS  
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ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT PD ENVIRONMENT IN DENMARK.  
GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION IN DENMARK ARE GENERALLY  
IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. POSITION OF A STRONG STANCE AGAINST  
SADDAM HUSSEIN. PD PROGRAMS FOCUSING ON A POSITIVE MESSAGE  
CONCERNING IRAQ'S FUTURE WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE IN THIS  
ENVIRONMENT.

2. (SBU) GOVERNMENT POSITION:  
DENMARK CURRENTLY PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF  
EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY DUE TO ITS EU PRESIDENCY THROUGH  
DECEMBER 2002. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN POLICY  
COMMITTEE OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 7, DANISH  
PRIME MINISTER ANDERS FOGH RASMUSSEN PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JAN 2012 201103091

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FIRM BELIEF THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN POSSESSES WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND SAID THIS SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BUSH ON SEPTEMBER 9, THE PM ASSURED THE PRESIDENT OF HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PLEDGED TO BRIEF HIS EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ON THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION. ON SEPTEMBER 11, THE PM STATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST REACT TO THE SITUATION IN IRAQ. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE WORLD MUST UNITE IN ITS OPPOSITION TO IRAQ AND REINFORCE PRESSURE AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN. THE PM BELIEVES THAT THE WORLD CANNOT WATCH PASSIVELY AS SADDAM HUSSEIN BUILDS HIS ARSENAL OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. FOREIGN MINISTER PER STIG MOELLER ALSO SUPPORTS A FIRM STAND AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN. HOWEVER, HE HAS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THERE MAY BE INSUFFICIENT PROOF THAT IRAQ HAS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE REINSTATEMENT OF UN WEAPONS INSPECTORS IN IRAQ, ALTHOUGH DANISH LEADERS HAVE MADE

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NO SPECIFIC PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF IRAQ CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO ALLOW UN INSPECTORS INTO THE COUNTRY. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. MUST SEEK A UN MANDATE FOR ANY ACTION IT PLANS TO TAKE AGAINST IRAQ. THEREFORE, THE MOST EFFECTIVE PD PROGRAMS FOR DENMARK SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS WORKING WITH ITS ALLIES AND WITH THE U.N. IN ORDER TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. AMONG DANISH OFFICIALS. PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FACTUAL DETAILS REGARDING SADDAM HUSSEIN'S WEAPONS CAPABILITY WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

3. (U) PUBLIC OPINION:  
THE RESULTS OF AN OPINION POLL RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 6 SHOW THAT 51.1 PERCENT OF DANES OPPOSE WAR AGAINST IRAQ AT THIS TIME. 33.1 PERCENT WOULD SUPPORT AMERICA GOING TO WAR WITH IRAQ, WHILE 15.8 PERCENT ARE UNDECIDED. MOST DANES FEEL SOLIDARITY WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. NEEDS THEIR SUPPORT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT PATH AMERICA TAKES AGAINST IRAQ. HOWEVER, AS IN MOST OF EUROPE, THERE IS A WIDELY-HELD BELIEF IN DENMARK THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ACTING PREMATURELY IF IT WERE TO GO TO WAR WITH IRAQ NOW. DANES BELIEVE THAT MORE PROOF IS NEEDED BEFORE CONCLUDING THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IS IN FACT IN POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF UN WEAPONS INSPECTORS IN IRAQ. MANY DANES ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD FOCUS ITS EFFORTS ON RESOLVING THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL, AND NOT SINGLE OUT IRAQ AS THE ONLY PROBLEM IN THE REGION. IN GENERAL, DANES FEEL TREMENDOUS COMPASSION FOR THE PLIGHT

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PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORTS IN DENMARK SHOULD FOCUS ON THE FACT  
THAT THE REMOVAL OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S REGIME WOULD GUARANTEE A  
BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ.

4. (U) MEDIA ATTITUDES:  
MEDIA ATTITUDES REFLECT THOSE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. MOST  
MEDIA SOURCES AGREE THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN POSES A THREAT TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND BELIEVE THAT SOME SORT OF ACTION  
AGAINST IRAQ WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, THERE IS  
WIDESPREAD CRITICISM IN THE MEDIA FOR AMERICA'S PERCEIVED  
UNILTERAL STANCE AGAINST IRAQ AND ITS TENDENCY TO GO IT ALONE  
IN FOREIGN POLICY. THE MEDIA ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. DOES  
NOT FEEL THE NEED TO WORK THROUGH THE UN OR WITH ITS ALLIES  
IN FORMULATING ITS STRATEGY AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN. HOWEVER,  
MOST MEDIA SOURCES EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. AND  
ITS PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THE PATH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKES  
AGAINST IRAQ.

5. (SBU) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS:  
THERE ARE TWO INSTITUTIONS WITH WHICH WE WOULD EXPECT TO WORK  
ON IRAQ-RELATED PROGRAMS. THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
DENMARK'S MIDDLE EAST STUDIES INSTITUTE, HEADED BY PROFESSOR  
JAN ERSLEV ANDERSEN, IS MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO PROMOTE  
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MIDDLE EAST. PROFESSOR ANDERSEN

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HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN TERRORISM AND HAS SPOKEN AND  
WRITTEN WIDELY ON THE TOPIC. THE DANISH FOREIGN POLICY  
INSTITUTE (DUPI), HEADED BY PER CARLSEN, IS DENMARK'S LEADING  
FOREIGN POLICY THINK TANK. DUPI HAS STRONG U.S. TIES AND WE  
HAVE WORKED EFFECTIVELY WITH MR. CARLSEN THE PAST. IN ORDER  
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TO WORK WITH DUPI ON FUTURE PROGRAMS WE WOULD NEED SENIOR USG  
OFFICIALS (ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND ABOVE) AVAILABLE TO  
SPEAK IN PERSON OR VIA DVC AT DUPI-ORGANIZED CONFERENCES AND  
OTHER PROGRAMS (SEE PARAGRAPH 6).

6. (U) PLANNED PD ACTIVITIES:  
POST'S IRC HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED A ROBUST PUBLIC OUTREACH  
PROGRAM VIA THE INTERNET, AND OUR INITIAL EFFORTS TO  
DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON AMERICA'S IRAQ POLICY WOULD FOCUS  
ON THAT FORUM. THE PLANNED OUTREACH PRODUCT "THE FUTURE OF  
IRAQ" WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN DELIVERING THE POSITIVE  
MESSAGE THAT A NEW REGIME WOULD IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE  
IRAQI PEOPLE. WE WOULD ALSO USE THE IP PRODUCT "SADDAM  
HUSSEIN'S IRAQ" TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. POSITION ON THE CURRENT  
SITUATION IN IRAQ AND TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.  
COPENHAGEN COULD ALSO IMPLEMENT A DVC SERIES FEATURING KEY  
USG OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY ON IRAQ. THESE WOULD  
TARGET POLICY AND OPINION LEADERS IN DENMARK FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT, THE MEDIA AND LEADING ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS.

7. (U) RECOMMENDED PD ACTIVITIES:  
BASED ON THEIR CONCERN FOR THE OPPRESSION FACED BY THE PEOPLE  
OF IRAQ, DANES WOULD RESPOND BEST TO PD ACTIVITIES THAT FOCUS  
ON A POSITIVE MESSAGE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF IRAQ. PROGRAMS  
IN DENMARK SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE THAT A NEW AND DEMOCRATIC  
REGIME IN IRAQ WOULD ALLEVIATE SUFFERING AND RESTORE BASIC  
HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY. A COMPARISON TO  
THE SUCCESS OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNANCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE RESULTING IMPROVEMENT IN  
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THE LIFE OF THE AFGHANI PEOPLE WOULD ~~LIKELY BE EFFECTIVE~~ IN  
DENMARK. CONDEMNATIONS OF THE CURRENT REGIME AND PORTRAYALS  
OF SADDAM HUSSEIN AS AN EVIL DICTATOR WOULD BE LESS USEFUL.  
PD ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON THE NEED TO  
MAKE IRAQ A MEMBER OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. DANES HAVE A  
STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE AND ARE LIKELY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY  
TO PROGRAMS THAT HIGHLIGHT IRAQ'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW UN  
INSPECTORS INTO THE COUNTRY AND ABIDE BY OTHER UN MANDATES.  
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